

[Interview with Vito Cacciola #38]

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Interview

with

Vito Cacciola

by

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Merton R. Lovett

"As well as remembered."

Interview with Vito Cacciola

BY Merton R. Lovett

(from memory)

"I'm glada to see you too, Mr. Lovett. I coma to maka visit with your daughter Mary, who is sick.

"I'm a sorry she has de set back. Maybe she will be mucha better tomorrow. I hoba so.

"I am a pleasur-ed to meet you, Robert, you looka like your father. Does you still attenda de college?

"Harvard, that is a greata college. To worka there must be a biga honor.

"Sometime I know you will got premoted and hava de fine position. You must be mosta intelligent to get a sucha high degree.

Yes, I hava a little difficulty to finda de place. I maka inquiry at de Hose-house. I saya to myself, de firemans will knowa where Mr. Lovett livea.

"They showa me. But I seea a larga dog and debata with myself, whether he is dangerous or is not dangerous.

"Sure; de firemans tella me. They saya he is de gooda, tama dog. So I meeta him with courage. To me he giva de friendly look and waga his tail.

"So, your dog woulda wag tail to burgler, huh? I hope he does 2 not recogniza me as thief.

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"No, I know you meana nothing, Mr. Lovett. I joka too. But if I getta me a dog, it must be one who will bite de crooka.

"So you has nothing which peoples would steal? You do not locka your doors? I hava not so much faith in peoples. I locka my door at night and I buya me de revolver, to defeat de gangster.

"No, I has never been robb-ed but one night I geta worry.

"It was lika this. I am working late to fixa shoe. From de window I see a four young men, which looka like jailbirds. They looka often in my direction. They pointa many times, then puta mouths to ears. They are planning evil.

"Sometimes they maka argument. One of them boys, shaka his head and walka off. Three of them marcha to my door and coma in.

"By jingo, I isa frighten-ed.

"What does I do? I maka myself feel courage. I looka at them without fear. I smila and say, 'I am glada to see you boys. Do you wanta to fix de shoes?'

"No; they seema confus-ed. Then I saya to them with smile, 'I will be glad to helpa you. Tella to me what you wish.'

"I am a surprise-ed and felt de relief. They looka to each other lika cats caught with dead bird. From shame they to unable 3 to maka conversation. They saya nothing, but leava de shop.

"I should saya not. If they had tried de robbery, I would hava made de strong resistance.

"Of course they might hava knocked me on head. But in de drawer with money, I keepa de pistol. By jingo, I would first shoota in them some holes.

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"Yes, I would like a to see Mary.

"I am most glada to see you Mary. I hopa you is mucha better. You looka very nicea.

"I was once in de hospital too, nam-ed Charlesgate. Also I lika do nurses. Lika you say de hospital is fine place. However, I should not wisha to live there often.

"The nurses joka with me also. One saya, after I escap-ed from other, 'Mr. Cacciola, you dreama with loudness. You tella me much about your life.'

"My jingo, wasa I worried. Perhaps I tella them all my sins. But it does not matter. The nurse relieva me, when she saya, 'I could nota understand you, because you dreama in de Italian language.'

"So you lika de oranges? Did you eata them like I advise to your papa?

"Thats gooda Mary. I knowa from insperience that they refresha de [thirst?] and de heart also, when you eata them so.

"Yes, thanka you; my niece Angela is very well today. She teasa 4 me and singa with mucha enthusiasm.

"Singing will maka you happy too. Your father tella me that you have gooda voice. When you singa, de Devil he is banish-ed.

"It helpa too to hava thoughts of good cheer and faith.

"You can choosa de blessed thoughts. De brain resembla de radio. You can turna de dials on radio and finda program what you wish. With de good will you can tunea in your thoughts on de sweet Jesus, also on what maka hope and courage.

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"I will leava you now Mary. Much talk will maka you tired. I hopa you geta health more quickly. I will praya for you.

"So this is you library, Mr. Lovett. My, my, my, — you hava more books than does Dr. Field.

"In his office he has many, but not so much as you.

"I knowa de boy what graduates from Harvard. His name it is Griffin. His father keepa de store and sella men's clothing. Does you knowa him, Robert?

"One day I goa to Mr. Griffin's store to buya cap. He is mosta discourag-ed. He saya, 'Vito, de business he geta more poor. My son he cannot finda job. He goa to Harvard. He geta graduated. Then he studies de Harvard business school, but now he hasa no job. I thinka college education wasa big mistake. Its de waste of money.

"Yes, I knowa it. Now de boy has good job. Mr. Griffin is much proud. He saya to me, 'My boy geta big job in bank. Those peoples repreciate that he has much learning from college. They paya for it.

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"Sure many boys from college is (dissapointed?). Do you believe it; I know two Italians who is so ignorant they can with difficulty writa their name?

"They geta jobs with richa men at Beverly Farms. They maka themselves important to de bosses. One geta \$150 per month; the other eara \$200. I thinka jobs which paya well should be enjoyed by men of intelligance. I thinka these jobs shoul da be for college boys.

"Yes, Mrs. Lovett, Sicily is de most beautiful country. De flowers, what you call them, gladiolas, grow untam-ed in de woods. Everywhere there is de tress for lemons and oranges.

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"No, de peoples is to busy to maka gardens. They must geta de livin by harda work. They do not repreciate all de lovely flowers.

"Yes, I keepa house for myself, Mrs. Lovett. Of course I hava not sucha comforts as you. I am not so smarta about cookery as woman. But I do a pretty well, and am quite happy, thanka you.

"It is nicea in Italy, but I does not wish to return. To tella you de truth, Mrs. Lovett, I had rather be dead in this country, than to be alive in Sicily."